

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03332 131201Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00  
PA-01 L-03 DODE-00 /072 W  
-----039957 131217Z /72 42

O 131109Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1383  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL PRETORIA 3332

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY  
BRUSSELS FOR MOOSE  
FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CEASEFIRE PROGRAM

1. GRAHAM AND LOW WERE BRIEFED BY THE SECURITY FORCES  
ON THEIR CEASEFIRE PROGRAM. IT HAD BEEN AGREED PREVIOUSLY  
THAT NO PUBLICITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE BRIEFING.

2. THE PROGRAM IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE SECURITY  
FORCES--LARGELY SPECIAL BRANCH--IN CLOSE COORDINATION  
WITH THE TWO AFRICAN NATIONALIST PARTIES, THE UANC AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 03332 131201Z

ZANU/SITHOLE. IT IS BASED ON A PLAN APPROVED BY THE  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN LATE APRIL AND INITIATED ABOUT MAY 1.

3. PARTY OFFICIALS, WHETHER UANC OR ZANU/SITHOLE,  
MAKE INITIAL CONTACT WITH GUERRILLA LEADERS AND BRING  
THEM INTO SALISBURY FOR TALKS WITH THE SPECIAL BRANCH.  
THESE HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT AT THE HOME OF SITHOLE OR

MUZOREWA OR ONE OF THE MINISTERS.  
IN THE CASE OF THE UANCE, THE CHURCH IS BEING USED  
EXTENSIVELY AND MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD AT CHURCH  
LOCATIONS. USUALLY THE FIRST CONTACTS ARE MADE WITH  
"MUJIBAS" OR EMISSARIES. THEY THEMSELVES ARE NOT  
GUERRILLAS BUT THEY DELIVER MONEY AND MESSAGES TO THE LOWEST,  
OR SECTION, LEVEL (10 MEN). SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS  
BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO SHOW RESULTS AT  
THIS LEVEL AND ARE INSISTING THAT THE TWO PARTIES AIM  
AT AT LEAST THE DETACHMENT LEVEL (4 SECTIONS OR 40 MEN)  
OR PROVINCIAL LEVEL. SO FAR, MOST CONTACT APPEARS TO  
HAVE BEEN ON THE SECTION LEVEL. SOME LEADS HAVE BEEN  
DEVELOPED TO HIGHER LEVELS BUT NO REAL BREAK THROUGH'S  
APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MADE.

4. ONCE CONTACT IS MADE THEN THE GROUP DESIGNATES AN  
AREA WHERE, IN RETURN FOR SUPPLIES OF FOOD, CLOTHING,  
PERHAPS MONEY, IT AGREES NOT TO CARRY OUT FURTHER ATTACKS.  
EVENTUALLY THE GROUP SWITCHES LOYALTY AND SOMETIME BEFORE  
THE ELECTION, THE INTENTION WOULD BE TO SEND IT BACK TO  
ITS HOME AREA WHERE IT WOULD HELP DEFEND THE ELECTION  
PROCESS AGAINST ZANU/MUGABE. IN THE MEANTIME IT IS  
HOPED THAT THESE GROUPS WILL BECOME MORE MILITANT IN  
FIGHTING ZANU/MUGABE.

5. GROUPS OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MEN, IN ONE CASE, AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 03332 131201Z

150 IN ANOTHER, HAVE BEEN LOCATED IN ZIPRA TERRITORY, WHERE  
THEY ARE BEING SUPPLIED AND EQUIPPED IN AN EFFORT TO  
STABILIZE THE AREA. THEN, AS THE SECURITY OFFICERS PUT IT,  
THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE A GO AT ZIPRA".

6. WHILE THE CONTACT CONTINUES TO BE THROUGHT THE INTERNAL  
POLITICAL PARTIES WHO ARE IN THEORY RESPONSIBLE FOR RAISING  
THE FUNDS TO SUPPLY THE GROUPS, SECURITY OFFICERS ADMITTED  
THAT 75 PERCENT OF THE RESOURCES FOR THE PROGRAM CAME FROM  
THE GOVERNMENT.

7. THE PROGRAM IS RECEIVING HELP FROM WHITE FARMERS, WHO,  
IN SOME CASES, HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH THE GUERRILLAS AND  
FROM CATHOLIC, ANGLICAN AND SOME AMERICAN PROTESTANT  
MISSIONARIES. THEY HAVE ACTED AS GO-BETWEEN'S AND ENCOURAGED  
GUERRILLA COMMANDERS TO COOPERATE WITH THE PROGRAM. RECENT  
MURDERS OF MISSIONARIES, THE SECURITY OFFICERS DECLARED,  
TOOK PLACE IN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROGRAM IS NOT  
OPERATING AND ARE COMPLETELY UNCONNECTED WITH IT.

8. IT IS THE HOPE OF THE SECURITY FORCES THAT THEY CAN  
EITHER BRING A CEASEFIRE OR AT LEAST A DE-ESCALATION OF

VIOLENCE BY OCTOBER, SUFFICIENT TO RUN THE ELECTIONS. THIS IS THEIR AIM. THEY BELIEVE WHEN ENOUGH GROUPS IN ANY ONE AREA HAVE DECIDED TO COOPERATE, THE REST WILL COME ALONG. THEREFORE, PROGRESS WILL NECESSARILY BE SLOW IN THE BEGINNING BUT MAY PICK UP LATER.

9. COMMENT: THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS COME TO MIND:

--ALTHOUGH THE SECURITY OFFICERS ARE OPTIMISTIC, THEY READILY ADMIT THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW TO DATE;  
-THE ENTIRE EFFORT IS BEING DIRECTED AT THE MASHONA POPULATION IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY, WITH ONLY A TOKEN EFFORT IN MATABELELAND IN THE WEST;  
--IT IS LIKELY THAT THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS WILL SEE AN INCREASE RATHER THAN A DECREASE IN THE LEVEL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PRETOR 03332 131201Z

OF HOSTILITY IF THE PROGRAM HAS ANY SUCCESS. THIS WILL RESULT FROM GROUPS WHO HAVE COME OVER AND ARE TURNING AGAINST THE REGULAR MUGABE FORCES.

EDMONDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMISTICE, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 jun 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PRETOR03332  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780246-0837  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PRETORIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780665/aaaacdvv.tel  
**Line Count:** 140  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** bc50498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2372633  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RHODESIA: CEASEFIRE PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** PINT, PDEV, RH, ANC, ZANU, (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/bc50498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014